

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08668 101709Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----074652 101711Z /53

O P 101635Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4083
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8668

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1 AND 2
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, IS, US, SY
SUBJECT: LEBANESE CRISIS - WEIZMAN AND THE CHRISTIANS, EPILOGUE

REF: A) TEL AVIV 8598, B) TEL AVIV 8619 (NOTAL)

1. TALKED WITH WEIZMAN AT 1800 HOURS JULY 10. HE WAS
IN HAIFA FOR LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF NEW ISRAELI VESSEL AND
HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO GET HOLD OF DURING THE DAY
UNTIL THIS POINT.

2. AFTER I AGAIN RAISED WITH HIM OUR WORRIES ABOUT
CHRISTIAN INTENTIONS, HE ASSURED ME HE HAD TOLD BASHIR
GEMAYEL IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS (PRESUMABLY IN A MESSAGE
RATHER THAN IN PERSON) THAT ISRAELI ARE "NOT ABOUT TO
GET INVOLVED IN A MAJOR WAR OVER NORTH LEBANON." HOWEVER,
BASHIR HAD MADE EQUALLY CLEAR TO WEIZMAN THAT CHRISTIAN
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MILITIAS WILL NOT GIVE UP THEIR ARMS. (UNSTATED IMPLICATION
IN CONVERSATION WAS THAT ISRAELIS WOULD CERTAINLY NOT PRESS
THEM TO DO SO.)

3. WEIZMAN ASKED IN PASSING WHETHER I THOUGHT THERE
WAS ANY CHANCE THAT U.S. OR OTHERS COULD PERSUADE SYRIANS
TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON AND LEAVE PROBLEM TO LEBANESE.

I SAID I DOUBTED IT VERY SERIOUSLY, UNLESS ALL THE LEBANESE, CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM AALIKE, UNITED TO ASK SYRIANS TO DO SO. HE THEN INQUIRED AGAIN WHAT POSSIBILITY THERE MIGHT BE FOR INSERTING A UN FORCE BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. WE SPECULATED INCONCLUSIVELY ABOUT THE SUBJECT, BUT ONCE AGAIN I EXPRESSED THE GRAVEST DOUBTS THAT ANYTHING SIMILAR COULD BE WORKED OUT. I URGED HIM RATHER TO THINK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION NOW SEEMINGLY GOING ON IN BEIRUT AMONG LEBANESE LEADERS.

4. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH MY EXHORTING WEIZMAN YET AGAIN TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT HIS CHRISTIAN FRIENDS DID NOT MISUNDERSTAND ISRAEL'S INTENTIONS. HE SAID HE WAS SURE HE HAD MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR TO BASHIR AND COMPANY, BUT OF COURSE HE WAS NOT QUITE AS SURE ABOUT THEIR HAVING BELIEVED HIM.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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